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| TRANSMITTAL FORM (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) | Application Number | 10/717,543 |
| | Filing Date | November 21, 2003 |
| | First Named Inventor | THOMAS GERLACH et al |
| | Art Unit | 3721 |
| | Examiner Name | |
| Total Number of Pages in This Submission | Attorney Docket Number | |

| ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply) | | |
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| SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT | |
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| Firm or Individual | William D. Breneman, Esq. BRENEMAN & GEORGES |
| Signature | |
| Date | May 6, 2004 |

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

THOMAS GERLACH and
DIRK DROEGE

U.S. Serial No.: 10/717,543

Group Art Unit: 3721

Filed: November 21, 2003

Examiner:

For: STAPLING DEVICE

May 6, 2004

* * * * *

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Honorable Commissioner of
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P.O. Box 1450
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Sir:

Pursuant to Rule 56 of the Rules of Practice in Patent and Trademark Cases (37 CFR § 1.56) Applicants submit copies of supplemental references uncovered in a search report by the German Patent Office dated March 15, 2004 of prior art searched in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Great Britain, USA, Japan (abstracts), USSR (abstracts), European Patent Office and WIPO. These references including literature are included on Form PTO-1449 appended hereto as Exhibit B and are as follows:

THOMAS GERLACH et al.
U.S. Serial No.: 10/717,543

U.S. Patent No. 5,005,751A (Manfred Radtke et al.)
April 9, 1991

U.S. Publ. 2002/0060388A1 (Hiroyuku Wakabyashi)
May 23, 2002

U.S. Patent No. 6,142,353 (Heinz Boss et al.)
November 7, 2000

U.S. Patent No. 5,772,198 (Kazushi Yamamoto)
June 30, 1998

U.S. Patent No. 5,147,557 (Jacques Meier)
December 29, 1992

German References

DE 197 50 143 A1 (Brehmer Buchbindereimaschinen)
April 9, 1991

Abstracts in English of the cited German references
have been obtained where available and are included herewith as
Exhibit A.


Although no fee is believed required for the
Information Disclosure Statement, the Commissioner is hereby
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THOMAS GERLACH et al.
U.S. Serial No.: 10/717,543

A duplicate copy of this sheet is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

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| Art Unit | 3721 |
| Examiner Name | |
| Attorney Docket Number | |

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initials* | Cite No. ¹ | Foreign Patent Document | Publication Date | Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear | † ⁶ |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------|---|---|----------------|
| | | Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵ (if known) | MM-DD-YYYY | | | |
| | | DE 197 50 143 A1 | 05-20-1999 | Brehmer Buchbin | | |
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